It takes many years and skilful ministers to change the financial system of a country. I view men of science and clever men as I do coquettes; it pays to see them, to converse with them, but not to choose a wife or a minister from among them.

19th. (To Talleyrand.) We must immediately provide for the closing to England of the ports of Spain and Portugal. As soon as you reach Paris you will notify the Portuguese minister that on the 1st of September the ports of Portugal must be closed to England.

22d. (To Prince Eugene.) I have received the letter from the Pope which you forwarded. Answer His Holiness in some such terms:

" Holy Father: I have placed Your Holiness' letter before the Emperor, my revered Father and Sovereign, who has replied to me in a long letter from Dresden, from which I will quote an extract to Your Holiness to make you understand the views of His Majesty, and so as not to conceal the real state of affairs. —

My son, I perceive by his Holiness* letter, which he certainly never wrote himself, that I am threatened. I would not tolerate this from any other Pope. What does Pius VII wish to do when he denounces me to Christendom ? Put an interdict on my throne ? Excommunicate me ? Does he imagine that their muskets will drop from my soldiers' fingers ? Or is it to place a dagger in my people's hands to assassinate me? Frenzied Popes, born for the misfortune of men, have already preached this infamous doctrine. I shall doubtless hear that the Holy Father intends to apply the scissors to my head and to lock me up in a monastery! Does he suppose that the present